

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 6, 8 and 10-23 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 9 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATION

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the drawings and specification were objected to for failing to show certain features of claims 10, 13 and 23. Claims 10, 13 and 23 have been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS -- 112

Claims 10-19 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 10-19 and 23 have been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS -- 102 and 103

Claims 10, 11, 13-17 and 19-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rumreich et al. (US 6,088,064) (hereinafter "Rumreich").

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumreich in view of McNeely et al. (US 4,890,162) (hereinafter "McNeely").

Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumreich in view of Baerlocher (US 7,004,835) (hereinafter "Baerlocher").

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 8, respectively, and are therefore now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claims 3 and 4 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 10-23 have been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable in its present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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